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William Lewis, Jr. Special for Crusade for Freedom

Excerpt:

"Before departing Augusta, the President announced the appointment of a new ambassador to Bulgaria, the first ambassador to that country in nine years, and a selection that demonstrates once again that the closed corporation of foreign service is now once again in complete control of the reins of the State Department of the Secretary of State, Christian Herter. That is not surprising. Secretary Herter's critics in Congress expected this to happen, warned that while he is a very personable individual, he also is a very weak individual as an administrator and would let the foreign service crowd move in and take over in a matter of mere weeks, which is exactly what has happened.

"This appointee today was Edward Page, Jr., now Consul General at Munich, Germany, who was a key figure in the scandalous affair of the incarceration of an employee of Radio Free Europe in Munich in the summer of 1956, an employee named Fletcher Bartholomew, who had given Edward Page, Jr. a critical report on the behavior and personal conduct of certain members of Radio Free Europe High Command in Munich.

"Bartholomew made his written report to Edward Page, Jr. only to find that it turned up in the hands of his own Radio Free Europe superiors, including the people whom he had criticized, and he was lured under a ruse to the Army Hospital in Munich where a doctor who was not a doctor at all found that he was mentally dangerous, had him committed to the Hospital against his will, and kept in a barred room with an armed guard at the door, against the vigorous and persistent objections of his wife and close friends who said there was nothing wrong with him.

"It seems that the Radio Free Europe officials involved went to Edward Page, Jr. and asked his cooperation in having Fletcher Bartholomew hospitalized, and Page instructed the Commanding Army General at Munich to cooperate with Radio Free Europe and to do what they wanted done. Fletcher Bartholomew was a private citizen and in no way subject to the Army; in fact Army regulations specifically forbade that he be provided any facilities or treatment in any Army Hospital even at his own request.

"He was, in fact, an employee of RFE, which claims to be a private institution, thus was a private citizen on his way home to the US after having resigned from RFE when all this took place.

"By way of following up, Edward Page, Jr.'s instructions, the Army held him against his will and against that of his wife; finally strapped his feet and his wrists to a strapper--to a stretcher, drugged him heavily, and sent him home by an Air Force Hospital plane only to release him as soon as he reached the Hospital Receiving Center in New Jersey. He has been free ever since.

"In some manner or fashion all investigations of the case have always been sidetracked. I personally took it to the Secretary of the Army and later found myself interviewing a Medical Officer who was supposed to be Chief Psychiatrist